DOCTOR
WHO
CLASSICS
IDW
ISSUE #2
$3.99
FREEZE, CREEP! I'M SPREADING YOU ALL OVER THIS JUNKHEAP PLANET!
CK over SIBBONS
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Doctor Who
Classics Series 2 Issue #2

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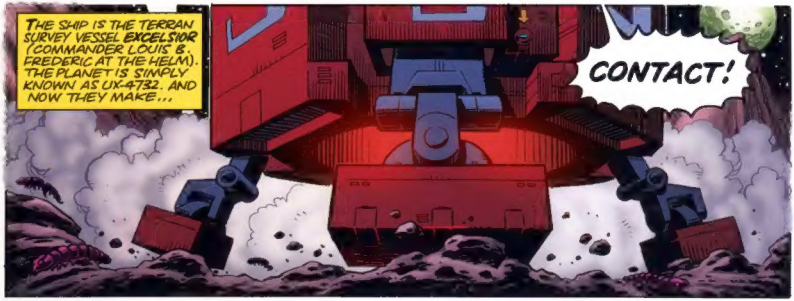
DOCTOR WHO in SPIDER-GOD
ALTITUDE: 80,000 METRES...
GRAVITY: 0·987...
OXYGEN: 19%... NITROGEN: 76%...
LOOKS GOOD, SIR!
THEY ALL DO... FROM UP HERE!
IT'S WHEN YOU LAND THE TROUBLE STARTS!
ALL RIGHT, JONES, TAKE US DOWN...
ONE MORE LOUSY, STINKING PLANET TO SURVEY...AND THEN WE CAN GO HOME!
WRITER: STEVE MOORE / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: ALAN McKENZIE


THE SHIP IS THE TERRAN SURVEY VESSEL EXCELSIOR (COMMANDER LOUIS B. FREDERIC AT THE HELM). THE PLANET IS SIMPLY KNOWN AS UX-4732. AND NOW THEY MAKE...
CONTACT!

IT IS THREE YEARS SINCE THE EXCELSIOR LEFT EARTH...
DRAW SIDE-ARMS, SERGEANT RANDALL ... FULL ALERT!
TWENTY YEARS SINCE FREDERIC JOINED THE SURVEY CORPS...

AND HE'S JUST ABOUT HAD ENOUGH!
PLACE SMELLS LIKE A BLASTED COMPOST HEAP!
COMMANDER ... LOOK!

WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT?
GET DOWN THERE AND FIND OUT, SERGEANT!

HELLO THERE!
I SEE IT...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

ALRIGHT, HOLMES...WHO, OR WHAT, IS THIS?
SAYS HE'S JUST A VISITOR, SIR...BEEN HERE A COUPLE OF HOURS...
FASCINATING PLACE...THERE'S A VILLAGE JUST OVER THE RISE...
GET THIS STRAIGHT, MISTER! I'M IN COMMAND HERE...AND WE DO THINGS BY THE BOOK! WE GO WHERE I SAY!
NOW, WHERE'S THIS VILLAGE?

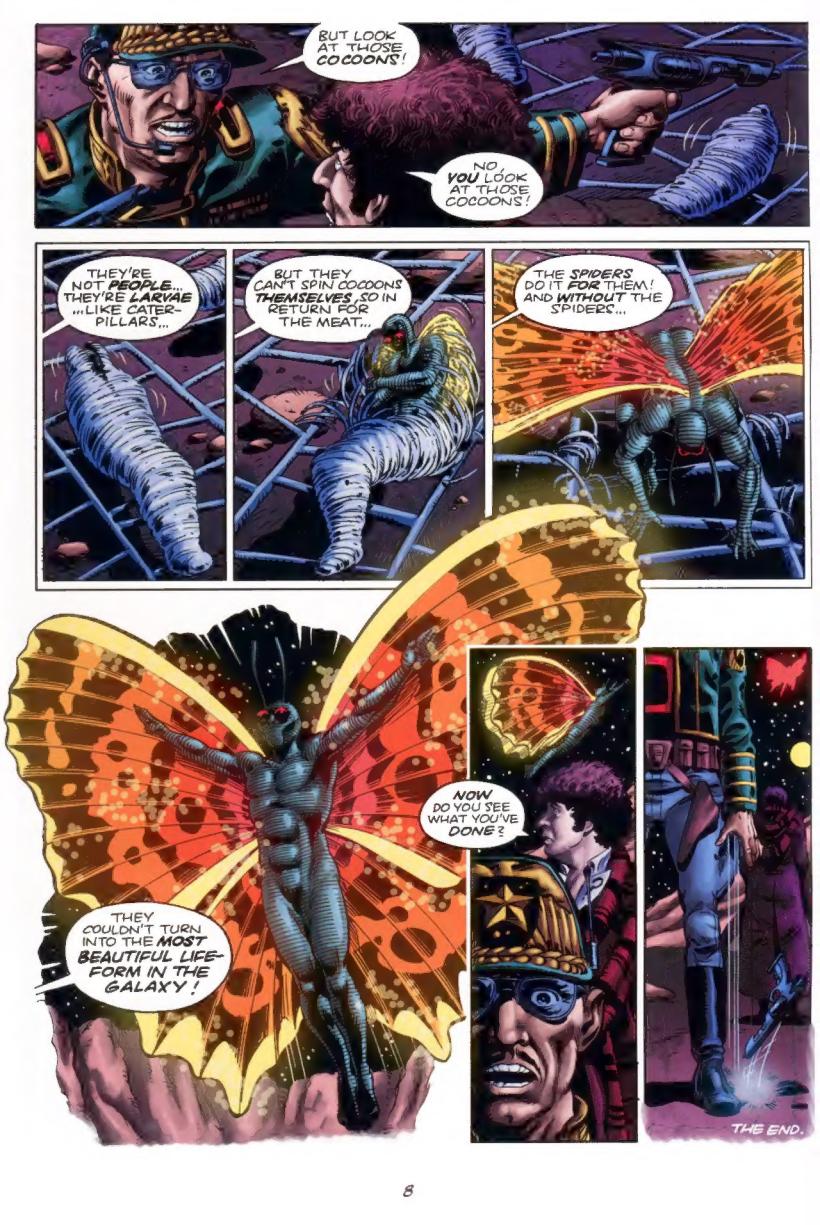
THERE... LOVELY LITTLE PLACE...
I DON'T LIKE IT... IT'S TOO QUIET!
RIGHT, CHECK YOUR BLASTERS, MEN...
NO NEED, COMMANDER... THEY'RE QUITE HARMLESS...
I'LL DECIDE THAT... AFTER WE'VE MADE OFFICIAL CONTACT!
GREETINGS! WE COME FROM...
HEY! YOU'RE NOT LISTENING..!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY 'TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER'?
WHY, OF ALL THE BLASTED, INSULTING...
OH, DON'T FEEL SO BAD ... THEY'RE COMPLETELY DEAF AND DUMB!
MEANWHILE, NEARBY...
LOOKS PERFECT... THEY JUST SIT AROUND AND EAT ALL DAY...
YEAH, LOOKS PRETTY IDYLLIC TO ME, TOO!

AND THEN...
HEY, LOOK! A HUNTING PARTY COMING IN! GUESS THERE'S GOING TO BE A FEAST!
HMM, THAT'S ODD! I THOUGHT THEY WERE VEGETARIANS!
LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S MOVING OUT! RANDALL, HOLMES! WE'RE FOLLOWING!
AND, IN A SMALL VALLEY NOT FAR FROM THE VILLAGE...
STRANGE PLACE... THAT SLAB OF ROCK LOOKS LIKE AN ALTAR!
SOME KIND OF RELIGIOUS RITE! THEY CERTAINLY LOOK HAPPY ABOUT IT...
ER... HEY, GUYS... LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STANDING ON A...
SPIDER-WEB!
OH, LORD! THEY'RE SACRIFICING THEMSELVES! THAT SPIDER...

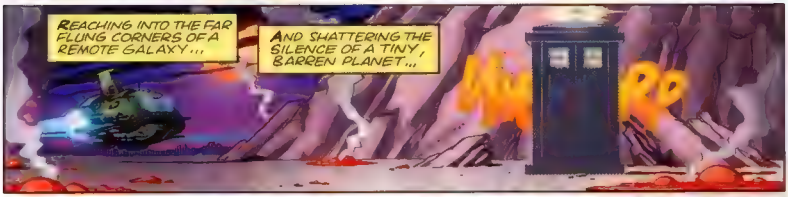
IT'S WEBBING THEM UP! IT'S GONNA EAT THEM!
BLAST IT, MEN!
SHLUKK!
ER... I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE DONE THAT...!
IN FACT I'M SURE YOU SHOULDN'T!
MINUTES LATER...
BACK INTO THE SHIP, MEN! WE'LL RESTART OPERATIONS IN THE MORNING!
SO MUCH FOR THEM NOT BEING HOSTILE! WE'RE DOING THINGS MY WAY NOW!
WELL, YOU DID DESTROY THEIR GOD! YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM!

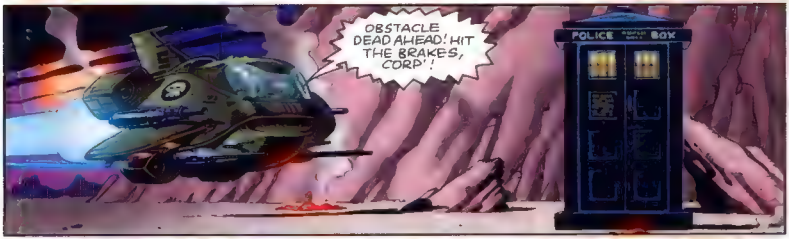
BUT NEXT MORNING, SOON AFTER SUNRISE...
HEY, COMMANDER! THE VILLAGE IS DESERTED! THEY'VE ALL CLEARED OUT!
ALRIGHT, RANDALL! TAKE THE SCOUTER AND FIND THEM!
TAKE THE DOCTOR, TOO... SHOW HIM HOW A REAL SURVEY TEAM WORKS!
GIANT SPIDERS ...HUGE BUTTERFLIES, ...THE WHOLE BLAMED BUG-HATCH GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
BUT, BEFORE TOO LONG...
ANOTHER VILLAGE TWO MILES SOUTH, COMMANDER, WITH SPIDERS ...IN FACT...
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
CAN WE GO DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK ROUND, SERGEANT?
AND SO...
WHAT'VE YOU FOUND, DOC? EGGS?
LOOKS LIKE IT ...AND THIS ONE'S...
HATCHING!
OH, MY STARS!!

COME ON, SERGEANT! BACK TO THE SHIP! I'VE GOT TO TALK TO FREDERIC!
?
BUT...
WE'RE AT THAT VILLAGE YOU SPOTTED, RANDALL...JOIN US THERE!
OH, NO ...WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?
THE FLIGHT IS MADE IN MINUTES...BUT JUST TOO MANY MINUTES!
OKAY, MEN! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS PLANET SAFE FOR DECENT FOLKS TO LIVE ON!
NOW... FRY THAT THING!
STOP! YOU DON'T REALISE WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
YOU FOOLS! THE SPIDERS NEVER DID ANY HARM!
NO HARM? ARE YOU CRAZY?
THEY EAT PEOPLE!
NO, THEY DON'T! THEY EAT THE ANIMALS LEFT ON THE ALTARS!
BESIDES ... THE VILLAGERS AREN'T HUMAN!
THEY HATCH FROM EGGS!


BUT LOOK AT THOSE COCOONS!
NO, YOU LOOK AT THOSE COCOONS!
THEY'RE NOT PEOPLE... THEY'RE LARVAE ...LIKE CATER-PILLARS...
BUT THEY CAN'T SPIN COCOONS THEMSELVES, SO IN RETURN FOR THE MEAT...
THE SPIDERS DO IT FOR THEM! AND WITHOUT THE SPIDERS...
THEY COULDN'T TURN INTO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL LIFE-FORM IN THE GALAXY!
NOW DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?
THE END.

DOCTOR WHO in THE DEAL

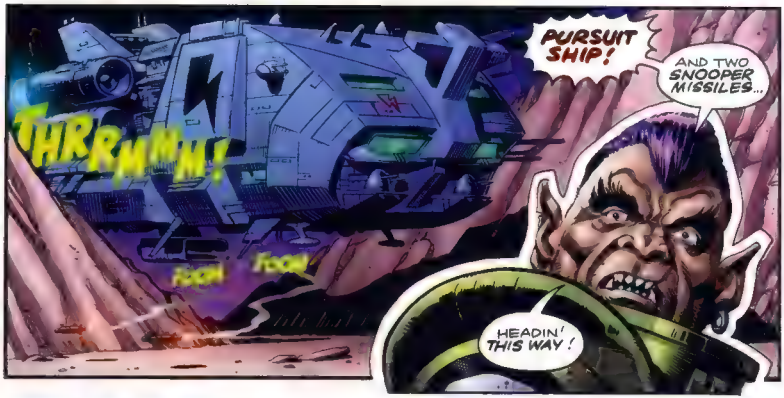




WRITER: **STEVE PARKHOUSE** / ARTIST: **DAVE GIBBONS** / EDITOR: **ALAN McKENZIE**

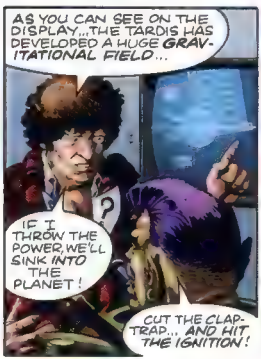
BUT THEN...
STRANGE ...SEEMS TO BE SOME TURBULENCE OUTSIDE...
GOOD HEAVENS!
WHUMMP!
I CAN HARDLY MOVE! THERE'S A FORCE HOLDING ME DOWN...
IT'S...FADING SLOWLY...I MUST MAKE IT TO THAT WRECKAGE...
SOMEONE MAY BE HURT...
FREEZE!
PTCHW
PTCHW
PTCHW
YOU WRECKED MY SHIP, YOU CREEP!
I'M GONNA SPREAD YOU ALL OVER THIS JUNKHEAP PLANET!
HELLO! GLAD YOU COULD DROP IN!
SHADDUP!

UP AGAINST THE WALL, BUG-EYES --AND BUTTON YA LIP!
SLAM!
I SAY, STEADY ON!
FRISK 'IM, SPIDER... I'LL TAKE A LOOK IN HERE!
?
LOOK INTO MY EYES...YOU WILL TELL ME EVERYTHING ...YOUR MISSION...YOUR WEAPONRY...
...YOUR FUNCTION!
GOOD LORD! THIS CREATURE IS PROBING MY MIND ...AND MY POCKETS --AT THE SAME TIME!
I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP A MENTAL BARRIER!
STRANGE GLUTINOUS OBJECTS... STUCK TO MY TENTACLES!
NOW'S MY CHANCE.
LOOK AT ME...EMPTY YOUR CIRCUITS OF ALL ELECTRO-CEREBRAL ACTIVITY...
YOUR WILL IS WEAKENING!
YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS!
AND...
I AM SPIDER... A MOBILE COMPUTER TERMINAL... ARACHNID SERIES 300A...
ASSIGNED TO TROOPER 1000AX/76 CORPORAL 3RD CLASS OF THE 12TH TROUBLE CHUTERS...
ENGAGED ON A SCOUTING MISSION AND CURRENTLY PURSUED BY TWO ENEMY CRAFT!
SPIDER! CLAM UP!
LISTEN, CREEP...I'M A SOLDIER...A PRO! I KILL...THEY PAY... THAT'S THE DEAL!
NOW TALK!
EXCUSE ME, IS THAT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?


THRRMMM!
PURSUIT SHIP!
AND TWO SNOOPER MISSILES...
FOOM
FOOM
HEADIN' THIS WAY!

GET IN THERE... THOSE SNOOPERS CAN SNIFF OUT A COCKROACH AT FIFTY KILO-METRES!
> OOF<

C'MON... MOVE! GET THIS THING OFF THE GROUND!
THIS ISN'T A CONVENTIONAL FLYING MACHINE...
IT'S A TARDIS!
AND THE GRAVITATIONAL STABILISER IS ON THE BLINK!


AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE DISPLAY... THE TARDIS HAS DEVELOPED A HUGE GRAVITATIONAL FIELD...
IF I THROW THE POWER, WE'LL SINK INTO THE PLANET!
CUT THE CLAP-TRAP... AND HIT THE IGNITION!

THAT GRAV' FIELD OF YOURS MADE MY SHIP THROW A WOBBLER...
WHO KNOWS? IT MAY WORK ON SNOOPERS!

POLICE BOX

SEEING NO ALTERNATIVE...THE DOCTOR BOOSTS THE TARDIS INTO OVERDRIVE...
GENERATORS SCREAMING, THE TIME-MACHINE TILTS CRAZILY, STRAINING TO MOVE TOWARDS THE CORE OF THE PLANET!
POLICE BOX
AND...
?
?
!
!
B-BOOOOM!
THE PURSUIT SHIP'S CLOSING IN...
POWERING AGAINST THE GRAVITY BARRIER...
INSIDE...
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, CAP'N! OUR INSTRUMENTS ARE MALFUNCTIONING!
THE CONTROLS WON'T RESPOND!
KEEP AT IT! I WANT THAT TROOPER NAILED FOR GOOD!
NO MORE! THE TARDIS CAN'T TAKE IT!
RIGHT! OPEN THE DOOR!
WHEN I GIVE THE NOD...KILL THE POWER!
HE'S MAD! WHAT CAN HE DO AGAINST A SHIP OF THAT SIZE?

OKAY! TURN IT OFF... NOW!

FREED FROM THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL, THE ALIEN CRAFT SOARS OVERHEAD...
LIKE SHOOTIN' FISH IN A BARREL!

KLIK
FWAM!

HA! I KILL ...THEY PAY! THAT'S THE DEAL!
HE'S A MEGALO-MANIAC KILLING MACHINE! I'M BEING USED!

ACTIVATED BY THE PURSUIT SHIP'S OWN DESTRUCTION, TWO PROJECTILES STREAK AWAY FROM THE HOLOCAUST...
REVENGER MISSILES! BOOST THAT GRAVITY GENERATOR!

SORRY, CORPORAL ...THIS IS THE LAST TIME I PLAY CATSPAW IN YOUR LITTLE GAME!
AS THE TARDIS DOORS LOCK SHUT...
WHAT GIVES? OPEN UP...DAMMIT!
BAM BAM
KLUNK
SO... I'VE GOTTA FACE 'EM ALONE, HUH?
LET'S SEE IF THEY CAN TAKE A COUPLA MORTAR BLASTS!
KLUK

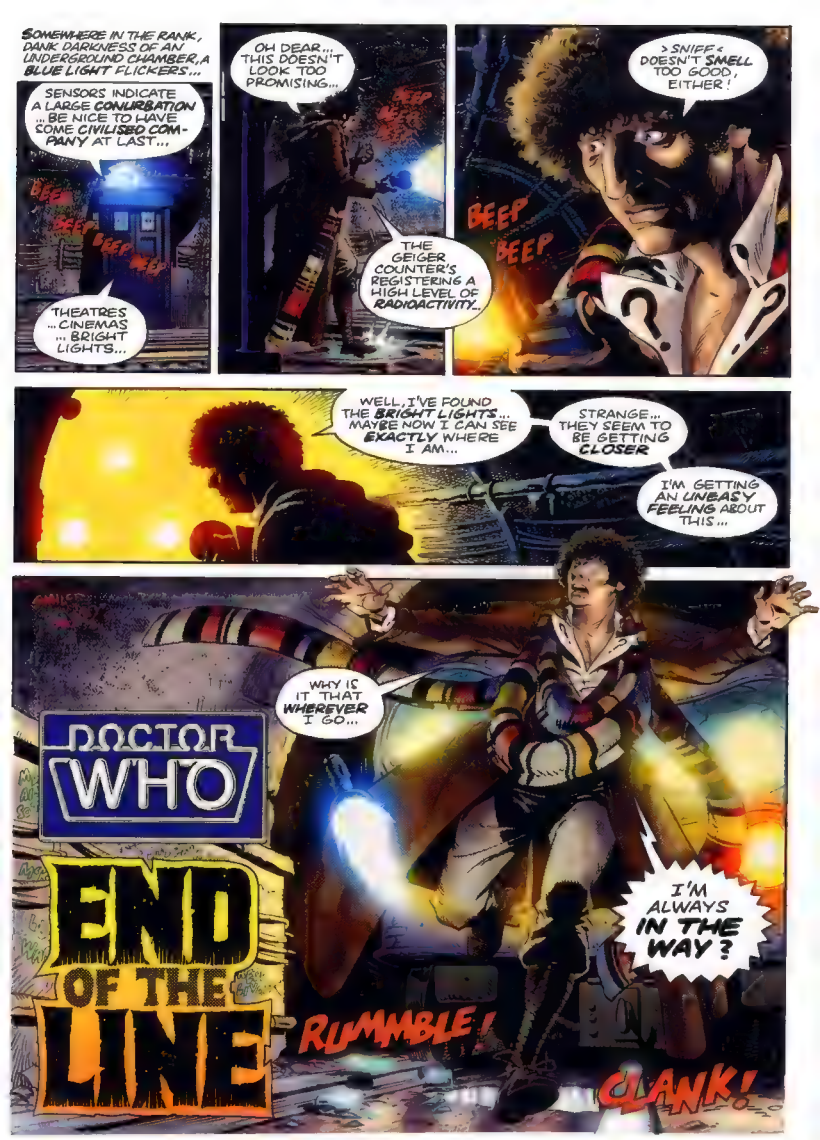
WHUMP!

CRUMP!

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I CHECKED THOSE STABILISERS...
AND NOW SEEMS LIKE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY!

AH... I SEE!
THE INTER-GROMMITER'S GONE ADRIFT... A TOUCH HERE... A TOUCH THERE... AND THAT'S IT!

BUT..!
HELL'S TEETH! A KING-SIZE PURSUIT SHIP!
VWIC
HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON??
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME! ARRRGH!
VWORP VWORP
VWORP
I DIE... WHAT THEN?
THIS WASN'T ...PART OF...
VWORP
...THE DEAL..!
VWORP
END


SOMEWHERE IN THE RANK, DANK DARKNESS OF AN UNDERGROUND CHAMBER, A BLUE LIGHT FLICKERS...
SENSORS INDICATE A LARGE CONURBATION ... BE NICE TO HAVE SOME CIVILISED COMPANY AT LAST...
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THEATRES ... CINEMAS ... BRIGHT LIGHTS...
OH DEAR... THIS DOESN'T LOOK TOO PROMISING...
BEEP BEEP
THE GEIGER COUNTER'S REGISTERING A HIGH LEVEL OF RADIOACTIVITY...
>SNIFF< DOESN'T SMELL TOO GOOD, EITHER!
BEEP BEEP
WELL, I'VE FOUND THE BRIGHT LIGHTS... MAYBE NOW I CAN SEE EXACTLY WHERE I AM...
STRANGE... THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING CLOSER
I'M GETTING AN UNEASY FEELING ABOUT THIS...
DOCTOR WHO
END OF THE LINE
WHY IS IT THAT WHEREVER I GO...
I'M ALWAYS IN THE WAY?
RUMMBLE!
CLANK!

BET IF I WERE IN A HURRY...

I COULD WAIT ALL AFTERNOON...

FOR A TRAIN!
SCREEEECH!

THANK GOODNESS I DIDN'T CHOOSE THE RUSH HOUR!
HSSSSS
CLUNK

AH...THERE'S SOMEONE...
HEAVENS! HE LOOKS ALMOST AT DEATH'S DOOR!

MY DEAR MAN...YOU LOOK ILL...
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?
GAG... GAAR... SHLRMF... BLLR
FOOD!

GET IT WHILE IT'S WARM!
LEMME AT IT!
SAVE ME THE WISHBONE!

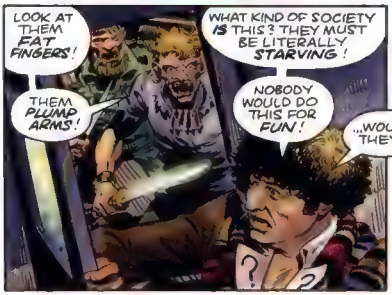
PLENNY O' MEAT ON DAT ONE!
OH, I GET THE IDEA ...YOU CHAPS ARE OUT ON A PICNIC...
...AND I'M THE PACKED LUNCH!

YOU SAID IT, MAN...
STAND STILL AND GET UN-WRAPPED!
I HATE TO LEAVE YOU FELLOWS HUNGRY...BUT I'VE GOT A TRAIN TO CATCH!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN KEEP THIS UP...
SLAM!

CRAASH!
THESE BRUTES ARE UN-STOPPABLE!

IT GETS WORSE ...EVEN THE DOORS CAN'T HOLD THEM...
I'D BETTER MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!
C'MERE, FAT BOY! I'VE GOTTA BONE TO PICK WITH YOU!
DON'T LET 'IM GO, YOU NERK! I AIN'T ATE FOR SIX DAYS!


LOOK AT THEM FAT FINGERS!
THEM PLUMP ARMS!
WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY IS THIS? THEY MUST BE LITERALLY STARVING!
NOBODY WOULD DO THIS FOR FUN!
...WOULD THEY?

WE GOT 'IM NOW! HE'S JUST SPAM IN A CAN!
BRUTE FORCE WON'T STOP THEM...
IT'S TIME FOR A LITTLE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE!

SWITCHING HIS SONIC SCREWDRIVER TO FULL POWER, THE DOCTOR WELDS THE CARRIAGE DOOR TIGHTLY SHUT...
THEN RUNS FOR HIS LIFE!
I'M NEARLY AT THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN ...ONLY ONE MORE CARRIAGE TO GO...
...AND THAT'S LOCKED!
AH! LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!
WHERE THERE'S LIGHT THERE'S LIFE...
...AND WHERE THERE'S LIFE, THERE'S HOPE!
BUT THE NIGHTMARE WON'T GO AWAY!
OH, NO!
SO THIS IS THE CITY! IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A GIGANTIC RAT-TRAP!
CIRCLE
NO BRIGHT LIGHTS...NO CINEMAS ...JUST POLLUTION, WASTE AND UNBOUNDED GLOOM!

IS THIS HOW IT ENDS... AFTER FOUR INCARNATIONS?
PINNED DOWN IN SOME COSMIC BACKWATER...
SKEWERED LIKE A KEBAB?
SO THERE YOU ARE, CHAPS... BON APPETIT!

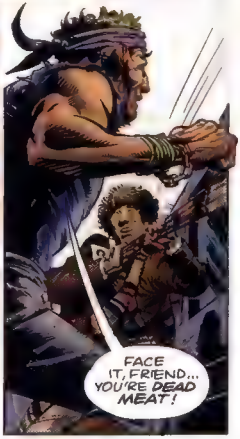
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
I'M COMIN' THROUGH!
OY! STOP SHOVIN'! THERE'S ENOUGH FOR ALL OF US!
NAFF OFF, YOU NERKS! I'M TAKIN' FIRST BITE ON THIS ONE!

THEN, TO THE DOCTOR'S RELIEF ... THE TRAIN BEGINS TO SLOW...
>PHEW!< MY STOP, I BELIEVE!

BUT, AS THE DOORS CRANK OPEN...
MORE OF THEM UP AHEAD! WHAT DO THEY THINK THIS IS ... MEALS ON WHEELS?

THEN, AS THE DOORS SLIDE SHUT...
SLAM

DRAT! I KNEW THIS SCARF WOULD BE MY UNDOING SOME DAY!
THE TRAINS PULLING OUT... AND TAKING ME WITH IT!


FACE IT, FRIEND... YOU'RE DEAD MEAT!

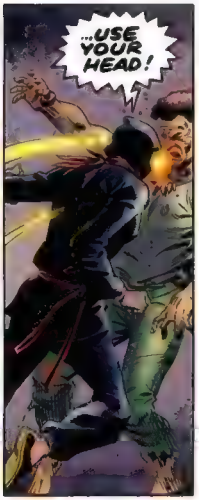
ON THE CONTRARY! I'M STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE!
BUT FOR HOW MUCH LONGER, I WONDER?
A WILD SWING FROM A GLEAMING BLADE SEVERS THE DOCTOR'S SCARF...
BUT THE ODDS AGAINST HIM ARE TOO GREAT...
OOF!
GNNN!
REMEMBER THE RULES! SOFT ORGANS GO TO THE LEADER! THAT'S ME!
YOU'RE WELCOME! I'LL TAKE SPARE RIBS ANY DAY!
NAH! SKIN'S THE THING!
AS FOR ME...I LIKE BLOOD! BUCKETS O' BLOOD!
KRUNK
TRY SOME OF YOUR OWN, PUNK!
AAAGH!
WELL... LOOK WHO IT ISN'T!
RATS! IT'S THAT BLASTED ANGEL AGAIN!
ALWAYS SPOILIN' OUR FUN!

WELL, NOBODY'S GONNA SPOIL MY FUN!
TRY IT, CREEP... I'D JUST LOVE YOU TO TRY IT!

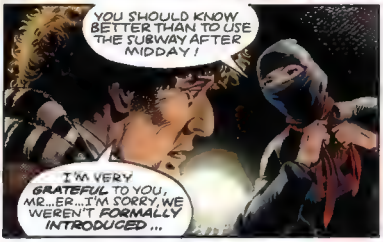
YOU BOYS HAVE SPENT SO LONG PICKING ON CARRION...
YOU'RE GETTING SOFT!

FWAM!
THWOP!

AHA! YOU'VE BEEN TAKING LESSONS!
THING IS... YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE BASIC RULES OF STREET FIGHTING... LIKE WHENEVER YOU CAN...


...USE YOUR HEAD!

I'M PUTTING AN END TO THIS FARCE... RIGHT NOW!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!


YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO USE THE SUBWAY AFTER MIDDAY!
I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU, MR... ER... I'M SORRY, WE WEREN'T FORMALLY INTRODUCED...

I'M ANGEL... I'M WITH THE GUARDIAN ANGELS...
WE TRY AND KEEP THE PEACE IN THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE...
DON'T WORRY...IM STRICTLY VEGETARIAN!
I'M THE DOCTOR... DELIGHTED TO MEET YOU...
DOCTOR?!
THIS IS A FATEFUL MEETING, DOCTOR... PLEASE COME WITH ME!
THE GUARDIAN ANGELS MAY HAVE NEED OF YOU!
REALLY?
WAIT A MINUTE ...WHO WERE THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURHOOD CARNIVORES?
THEY WERE THE CANNIBALS...BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, ONLY A JUNIOR CHAPTER! IF YOU'D MET THE BIG BOYS, YOU'D BE IN THE SOUP, FOR SURE!
BEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEP BEEEP
BEEEEP BEEEP BEEP BEEEEP BEEEP
CRUNCH!
DAM' THEM ANGELS! DAM' EM ALL!
SHARPEN YOUR KNIVES, MEN... WE'RE GONNA SCATTER THEIR BONES ALL OVER THIS STINKIN' CITY!
YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

IDWORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

ANGEL TIMES TWO

ANGEL GETS AN INFUSION OF NEW BLOOD IN FEBRUARY

Since late 2006, *Angel* has been picking up the pieces of where **Joss Whedon**'s beloved television series ended. Now, on the eve of the finale of that epic storyline and the beginning of the follow-up, *Aftermath*, we talked to *Angel* writers present and future. Writer **Brian Lynch**, who has been steering the storyline from the start, will be joined in February by novelist **Kelly Armstrong** and artist **Dave Ross** who come aboard to pick up the many pieces of Angel's world.

Lynch and Armstrong took time away from chronicling Angel's adventures to discuss where the character has been and where he's headed… if he survives to see tomorrow, that is.

Angel #18 cover by Gabriel Rodriguez

JANUARY RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS

30 Days of Night: 30 Days 'til Death #2
Angel: After the Fall #16
Angel: After the Fall Cover Gallery
Dark Delicacies #1
Doctor Who: The Forgotten #6
Doctor Who Classics: Series 2 #2
The Dreamer #3
Dreamland Chronicles #7
Ghost Whisperer: The Muse #2
Ghostbusters: The Other Side #4
GI Joe #1
Locke & Key: Head Games #1
Sir Apropos of Nothing #3
Speed Racer: The Next Generation: Birthright #3
Star Trek TNG: The Last Generation #3
Star Trek: Countdown #1
Terminator Salvation Movie Prequel #1
The Transformers: All Hail Megatron #7
Transformers: Maximum Dinobots #2
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Movie Prequel: Alliance #2
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen Movie Prequel: Defiance #1

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Classic Transformers, Vol. 3 TPB
The Complete Terry and the Pirates, Vol. 6 HC
Dreamland Chronicles Book Three TPB
Journey, Vol. 2 TPB
Jungle Book TPB
The Presidents of the United States TPB
Skate Farm, Vol. 1 TPB
Sparrow: William Wray HC
Speed Racer: The Next Generation Animated, Vol. 3 TPB
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Supermarket: Cash Money Edition TPB
Transformers Animated Vol. 7 TPB
Transformers: Armada, Vol 2 TPB
Transformers Movie Prequel: Saga of the Allspark TPB

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My Grandparents are Secret Agents
Tiger in a Pink Hat

Angora Napkin HC

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Journey, Vol. 2 TPB

Comments, questions, suggestions, complaints, gripes, etc. are appreciated. Feel free to send any correspondence to letters@idwpublishing.com or IDWords, 5080 Santa Fe Street, San Diego, CA 92103. You can also join in the hullabaloo on our message boards at idwpublishing.com.

***IDW**: Brian,* After the Fall *has been quite a journey for you and Angel, dating back almost two years to the initial development between you and Joss. How different has the story turned out to be from where you and Joss originally started?*

BL: I have a general rule: if you're lucky enough to land Joss Whedon while planning the series, you should listen to what he has to say, so we stuck pretty close to the original outline. That said, the destination stayed the same, even if the journey changed a bit as we went on. All the leads had specific arcs planned. I knew where they were going to wind up, but sometimes I'd find a more interesting way of pushing them in that direction, and went with that. For instance, the Cordelia appearance wasn't planned from the beginning. In fact, when I asked Joss if she could make an appearance, he said her story was told and her exit was so strong that if she *did* come back, it would have to be a very powerful moment and for a really powerful reason. When I was writing the issues that basically had Angel dying but still watching events from a disembodied state, I realized he'd need someone to talk to and the Cordelia appearance popped into my head. It just worked. Yes, that's exactly who he'd want to see to help him get through this mess. That made me very happy, because I felt that, dead or not, Cordy *had* to make an appearance. She was such a huge part of the show.

Occasionally, and this was a great feeling, the characters took over and events happened sooner than planned. An example of this would be in issue 10, when Angel figures out how to find the Big Bad behind the scenes, leading him right to Gunn's rooftop. Originally, that wasn't going to happen until 11 or 12, but as I was writing it, a way to find the baddie became quite apparent. And if it was apparent to me, it's gotta be apparent to Angel, he's so much smarter than I am (but I'm taller). So events moved up.

***IDW**: Looking back over the entire storyline, is there anything you wish you'd done differently?*

I wish I had given Nina more to do. To have her make an appearance in issue 1, I think it definitely set her up to be more important than she was. Originally she was more invested in Connor's storyline, but as the book went on, it became clear that Connor's story was more about his relationship with Angel. So, Nina fell to the wayside.

Also, Angel finding Gunn earlier than planned meant Nina was not going to be with them when Gwen's betrayal occurred. That would have been a big moment for Nina, too.

That said, I think she had some good stuff in issue 10. And I don't think we've seen the last of her. There's a lot of potential there.

***IDW**: Who has been your favorite character to write?*

Honestly, I love writing the entire cast. Illyria was the toughest in the beginning, but as the series went on I clicked with her and now she's a blast. Spike is obviously a favorite and probably comes the easiest, but Gunn's situation and his seriously deluded reactions made for some fun days of writing. I really, really dug writing any Angel and Wesley conversations. Two old friends with such a crazy history, they've been through it all together.

But easily the most surprising has been Connor. Joss' idea was to make him well-adjusted and fully embracing his abilities and role of hero—that was exciting. Of course, as the series went on, he snowballed into a bigger and more important character. I think he's been the most surprising for the fans, too. Connor was a great character on the TV show but I don't think he was ever a favorite. But he's slowly but surely become one of the most popular characters in *After the Fall*, which is wonderful.

Cue the e-mails from people telling me that Connor WAS their favorite. Every character is someone's favorite. Except the Shark Lord. No one seems to dig him, poor guy.

***IDW**: Your storyline culminates in issues 16 and 17—is there anything you can say about what's in store for readers in these issues that won't spoil the ending?*

I think it goes in some surprising directions. I mean, hopefully, anyway. I am not an emotional person when it comes to watching movies or reading comics, and I'm especially not an emotional person when it comes to my own writing, but there are moments in the last couple of issues that were actually difficult to write because they were so heartbreaking. And when I got Franco's or Stephen's art for those scenes, I was choked up.

There is bloodshed, death, tragedy, and we say goodbye to some characters permanently. There are *huge* moments, as a huge fan of Angel I still can't get over the fact that I was trusted with writing them, and I don't think we let anyone down. The last arc of issues are powerful in every sense of the word. And funny. And somewhat triumphant. Somewhat. Too triumphant and it's not *Angel*.

Plus, the surviving characters get pushed into some new directions. A bunch of them are in completely different places and states of mind when the series ends.

I just can't wait for the issues to come out so I can talk about them with fans. And my parents. They still read them, even though they've never seen the show. But man, are they excited I'm writing a *Bones* comic. They love that show, and I don't have the heart to tell them the truth.

***IDW**: The other notable mark you've left on Angel has been in the form of three separate Spike miniseries alongside artist Franco Urru. Do you have more Spike stories in you that you'd like to tell?*

Franco and I told a trilogy of stories with *Asylum, Shadow Puppets* and *After the Fall*. I think maybe there's a great story that is the culmination of everything we've built on, but I want to finish *Angel: After the Fall* and then detox on vampire-y stories for a while before even attempting to tell the story.

Also, while I got to write the character of Angel quite a bit in *Angel: After the Fall*, I would really love to tackle a story that isn't full of other *Angel* characters, and just concentrate on Angel himself. It would be a matter of finding the right tale to tell, and I don't know if I'll ever get to do it, but it would be fun.

And please, IDW, for the love of God, *Savage Sword Of Groosalugg* one shot. It's begging to be done. I even told Joss that title a long time ago, and his face lit up. It would be stellar!

Angel #17 cover by Franco Urru

IDW: *Kelley, when initial word was released that you'd be taking over the title at the conclusion of After the Fall, many fans familiar with your work expressed joy that your novels made you seem a perfect fit for Angel. For those unfamiliar with your prose novels, can you tell us a bit about what you've done so far?*

KA: I've been writing paranormal fiction all my life. My first novel, *Bitten,* was published in 2001, and tells the story of a female werewolf. That launched a series set in a shared supernatural universe with a revolving cast of supernatural narrators. Book nine came out in fall 2008, and in 2008 I launched a young-adult trilogy set in the same world. I also have a non-paranormal thriller series, starring a hit-woman, with the second book coming out in early '09.

IDW: *You're coming aboard a title that has one of the more passionate audiences in all of fandom, let alone just comics. Do you know what you're getting yourself into?*

KA: Don't remind me! Yes, I know exactly how passionate the fandom is… and I try really hard not to think about it, because as much as I would love to please every one of the fans, I know from my own series-writing experience that it never happens. All I can do is give it my best shot and treat the characters with respect.

IDW: *At the little mini-Angel Summit at Comic-Con where you, Brian Lynch and IDW Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall met and discussed plans for the title, did you have a clear direction for where your story would go or has that evolved as you've worked on the book?*

KA: I had a general idea, but the specifics will continue to evolve. That's the way my novel writing goes, too. I have a basic idea of the path I'm taking, but I leave enough "wiggle-room" to let me make changes as I work into the story and see better opportunities.

IDW: *Since we don't want to delve into the current cast and risk spoiling any events at the conclusion of the After the Fall storyline, let's talk about the Aftermath, the arc you're doing with artist Dave Ross. Can you tell us a little bit about the new characters fans can expect to see in the series?*

KA: Brian did an amazing job of integrating so many of the series characters in *After the Fall* and, reading it, I know that I can't follow him in that. While I'm a huge fan of *Angel,* I'm new at writing for the series. So when it comes to characters, I need to take baby steps or, after Brian's work, it'll be really obvious that I'm not nearly so adept at writing them all! The cast of *Aftermath* is much smaller, and to supplement that I'm adding a couple of new characters. One is a cat shifter. The other is a warrior angel. And because I'm allergic to spoilers, that's all I'll say for now…

IDW: *Two scripts in [at press time], do you have a favorite character to write? Or one you're looking forward to delving into a bit more deeply as you go?*

KA: I'm enjoying them all, but one that I'm looking forward to expanding on and exploring is Kate. I'll admit, I wasn't a huge fan of Kate in the show, but the bit of her we saw in *After the Fall* was great, and really got me thinking of how she could be used, and what she'd be feeling, how she'd be changing. She's a character in flux right now, one who isn't completely sure where she fits in, and that's a lot of fun to play with.

After the Fall concludes in Angel #17 and *Aftermath* starts in Angel #18. Look for both issues this February.

IDW